

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/087653 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C07D 401/14**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/009658

(22) International Filing Date: 30 March 2004 (30.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/460,029 3 April 2003 (03.04.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MERCK & CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **COSFORD, Nicholas, D. P.** [GB/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **HUANG, Dehua** [CN/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **SMITH, Nicholas, D.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US). **HU, Essa Hsinyi** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

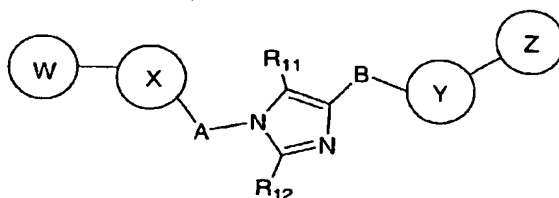
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
24 March 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: 4-RING IMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES AS MODULATORS OF METABOTROPIC GLUTAMATE RECEPTOR-5



(I)

(57) Abstract: Imidazole compounds of Formula (I): (where A, B, R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub>, W, X, Y and Z are as defined herein) wherein the imidazole is substituted directly, or by a bridge, with i) a heteroaryl moiety containing N adjacent to the point of connection of the heteroaryl and ii) another heteroaryl or aryl ring, with at least one of the rings being further substituted with another ring, which are MgluR5 modulators useful in the treatment of psychiatric and mood disorders such as, for example, schizophrenia, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorders, and panic, as well as in the treatment of pain, Parkinson's disease, cognitive dysfunction, epilepsy, circadian rhythm and sleep disorders - such as shift-work induced sleep disorder and jet-lag, drug addiction, drug abuse, drug withdrawal, obesity and other diseases, and pharmaceutical compositions and methods of treating these diseases.

WO 2004/087653 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09658

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C07D 401/14

US CL : 546/256

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 546/256

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
CAS Online

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,300,347 A (REVESZ) 9 October 2001 (9.10.2001), see entire document.	13

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 October 2004 (19.10.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

01 DEC 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Patricia L. Morris

Telephone No. (571) 272-0688

DEBORAH A. THOMAS  
PARALEGAL SPECIALIST  
GROUP 4300

*Deot*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09658

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 1-12 and 14-20  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
Please See Continuation Sheet
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐  
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09658

### Continuation of Box II Reason 2:

In these claims, the numerous variables and their voluminous, complex meanings and their seemingly endless permutations, makes it virtually impossible to determine the full scope and complete meaning of the claimed subject matter. The compounds defined in the claims lack a significant structural element qualifying as the special technical feature that defines a contribution over the prior art. The substituents on the structure vary extensively and when taken as a whole result in vastly different compounds. Further, the variable cores created by W, X, Y and Z do not belong to a recognized class of chemical compounds in the art. As presented, the claimed subject matter cannot be regarded as being a clear and concise description for which protection is sought and such the listed claims do not comply with the requirements of PCT Article 6. Thus, it is impossible to carry out a meaningful search on same. A search will be made on the first discernible invention, i.e., the first compound set forth in claim 13.